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25 April 1959

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

25 April 1959

## DAILY BRIEF

### II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Iran-USSR: (The Iranian ambassador in Moscow told Ambassador Thompson on 23 April that he had protested against Soviet overflights and that he will soon present the Iranian reply to the Soviet memorandum of last December which warned Iran of the "serious deterioration" of Soviet-Iranian relations. He states further that continued propaganda attacks against the Shah could lead Iran to break diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Some Soviet overflights of Iranian territory undoubtedly occur, but the large number of violations reported recently by the Iranians is believed exaggerated.)

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Morocco: (Rabat apparently will soon resume formal negotiations--suspended since last fall--regarding the five American air bases located in Morocco. The government is almost certain to press the United States to take further steps toward the evacuation of the bases. Premier Ibrahim, under mounting pressure to eliminate all foreign troops from Morocco, has already raised with Madrid the question of withdrawing the 10,500 Spanish troops from northern Morocco, and King Mohamed V has asked that an agreement on the 28,000 French troops be reached during his projected meeting with De Gaulle)

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Britain-Iraq: (The British cabinet has decided to sell Iraq Centurion tanks, Canberra bombers, heavy weapons, and other arms. In informing Premier Qasim of this decision, Ambassador Trevelyan will stress British expectations that Iraq will remain free of Communist control, keep oil flowing to Europe, and improve trade ties with Britain. If Qasim reacts favorably, it is planned to deliver some equipment this year. London points out that its decision can be reversed before delivery of heavy weapons begins in 1960.)

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Afro-Asian Economic Conference: A planning committee of the Afro-Asian Economic Conference, whose temporary headquarters is in Cairo, is meeting in Indonesia to study the terms of a permanent constitution for that body. Two problems which are to be resolved by the committee are whether the USSR should be made a member of the conference, and where the permanent headquarters of the conference should be. A draft constitution reportedly forwarded from Cairo envisages Soviet membership and a Cairo headquarters. There is strong opposition to Soviet participation, however, and several nations feel the headquarters should be in South or Southeast Asia. (Page 5)

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Burma: The Burmese Army is attempting to exploit the Tibetan situation to stimulate sentiment against Communist China. The army is arranging for political and Buddhist groups to distribute throughout Burma 100,000 copies of a pamphlet on Tibet on an unattributed basis. Fear of China as well as the desire for a border settlement with Peiping prevent Prime Minister Ne Win from adopting an openly anti-Communist foreign policy.

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Britain: (Macmillan's decision not to call general elections this spring will tend to increase pressures on his government to promote compromises in coming East-West negotiations. The elections, mandatory by May 1960, are now most likely to be called in October. The American Embassy has noted that holding elections soon after summit talks would place Macmillan under maximum pressure to secure agreement there in view of the expected closeness of the electoral contest.)

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Morocco Appears Ready to Resume Negotiations on American Air Bases

(The Ibrahim government appears ready to resume formal negotiations regarding the status of the five American air bases in Morocco. Discussions were initiated in May 1955 and suspended last fall. Premier Ibrahim, who unexpectedly brought up the subject with Ambassador Yost on 18 April, seems certain to press the United States to take further steps toward evacuating the bases.)

(Ibrahim is under mounting political pressure to obtain the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Morocco. Earlier this month he raised with Madrid the question of withdrawing the 10,500 Spanish troops from northern Morocco. King Mohamed V has indicated he desires to conclude an agreement on the 28,000 French troops in Morocco during his projected meeting with De Gaulle which may take place in mid-June.)

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Consultative Committee of Afro-Asian Economic Conference  
Meets in Indonesia

An eleven-member consultative committee appointed by the Afro-Asian Economic Conference in Cairo last December is meeting in Indonesia from 25 to 30 April to study the terms of a constitution for a permanent Afro-Asian Organization for Economic Cooperation and to decide on a site for its headquarters. Japan, Communist China, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Iraq, the UAR, Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Ghana are represented on the committee.

The committee's major constitutional problem is to decide whether to admit the USSR as a full member of the new organization. An Indonesian, who was a key figure in the conference in Cairo, says he has received a draft constitution from Cairo which provides for Soviet membership and for an organization headquarters in Cairo. The draft also provides for a powerful secretary general and a significant reduction in the influence of member delegations--an arrangement which would give the UAR a strong hand if the headquarters were to be established in Cairo.

Several nations at the Cairo Conference in December opposed Soviet membership, and Indonesia, Pakistan, India, and Japan will probably oppose it again. Ethiopia and Libya may also oppose. The UAR, Iraq, Sudan, Communist China, and possibly Ghana may favor Soviet participation. The vote at the consultative committee meeting will therefore presumably be close.

On the location of a permanent headquarters, the committee may also be widely divided. Indonesia apparently favors Bandung or Djakarta, though it would support Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, or New Delhi. Other nations opposing the UAR's previous attempts to dominate Afro-Asian meetings probably would also favor a shift from Cairo.

The 40-nation Afro-Asian Economic Conference held in Cairo last December was nongovernmental and supposedly nonpolitical in nature. The Egyptians, however, invited the USSR to be a member of the conference and asked delegations from several other Communist countries to be observers. Communist propaganda efforts

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at the conference were set back by a conflict over the legitimacy of the USSR's membership, and the resolutions produced were more moderate than originally anticipated. They were concerned mainly with economic collaboration among member countries, the effect of the European Common Market on the Afro-Asian world, means of resolving transfer-of-payments difficulties, and the establishment of a permanent Afro-Asian economic organization.

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Burmese Army Using Tibetan Revolt in Internal Anti-Communist Propaganda Campaign

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The psychological warfare section of the Burmese Army is exploiting the strong popular reaction to developments in Tibet in what will apparently be a continuing internal propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the Chinese Communists as well as Burma's own Communists. The army is discreetly sponsoring [redacted] distribution of 100,000 copies of a pamphlet on Tibet, as well as additional copies of a pamphlet prepared by the army itself purporting to describe the attitude of Burmese Communists toward religion. These tracts will be distributed by various Buddhist organizations and by local "solidarity committees," which the army has established throughout the country to mobilize popular support for the Ne Win government.

The army is also believed to have been responsible for a series of recent statements by prominent Buddhist clerical and lay leaders strongly denouncing Chinese Communist actions in Tibet and expressing sympathy for the Tibetan lamas. The army's deputy director for psychological warfare is reported, for example, to have been the actual drafter of a recent letter to the press signed by the president of a powerful organization of monks promising that protest meetings would be staged by the monks throughout the country and inviting the Dalai Lama to seek asylum in Burma.

This army campaign is a further manifestation of the strongly anti-Communist policy the Ne Win regime is pursuing internally. Despite their strong personal feelings, however, General Ne Win and his army advisers are apparently still unprepared to risk Chinese Communist pressure by officially denouncing Peiping's actions in Tibet or taking other overt actions to bring Burma's foreign policy more in line with its internal policy. [redacted]

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